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1. (Amended) A ceramic sheet having not more than 5 defects in an area having a length of 30 mm or less, the defect being detected based on an image obtained with a charge coupled device (CCD) camera, wherein

the ceramic sheet is produced by a process comprising steps of:

sandwiching a green sheet to be baked between spacers; and

baking the green sheet to be baked while the green sheet to be baked is sandwiched between the spacers, where

each of the spacers is either a green sheet or a calcined sheet each including spherical ceramic particles having an average particle diameter of 0.1 to less than 5  $\mu\text{m}$  as a main component.

5. (Amended) A method for producing a ceramic sheet, the method comprising steps of:

sandwiching a green sheet to be baked between spacers; and

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baking the green sheet to be baked while the green sheet to be baked is sandwiched between the spacers, where

each of the spacers is either a green sheet or a calcined sheet each comprising spherical ceramic particles having an average particle diameter of 0.1 to less than 5  $\mu\text{m}$  as a main component.

6. (Amended) A method for producing a ceramic sheet according to claim 5, wherein the content of the spherical ceramic particles is 80 wt% or larger with respect to the weight of the total ceramics contained in each of the spacers.

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7. (Amended) A method for producing a ceramic sheet according to claims 5 or 6, wherein each of the spacers has a sintering temperature of 50 to 300°C higher than the sintering temperature of the green sheet to be baked.

8. (Amended) A method for producing a ceramic sheet according to claims 5 or 6, wherein  
at least one of the spacers is a green sheet, and  
the baking calcines the at least one of the spacers into a porous sheet having a porosity of 5 to 60%.

[Please add new Claim 13 as follows.]

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--13. (New) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein the content of the spherical ceramic particles is 80 wt% or larger with respect to the weight of the total ceramics contained in the spacer.--

#### SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENT

This Amendment amends Claim 1 and 5-8; and adds new Claim 13. Support for the amendments is found in the specification and claims as originally filed. In particular, support for Claim 1 is found in Claim 5. No new matter would be introduced by entry of these amendments.

Upon entry of these amendments, Claims 1-13 will be pending in this application. Claims 1 and 5 are independent.